Smyrna March 29th 183[illegible]

My dear Brethren

Your letter of the 30th July 183[illegible]
has lain by me a long time neglected. Meanwhile
a world of new duties has occupied my attention
fully as to leave me unaware how greatly I was
trespassing against your claims by my long silence. I
hope you will consider a sufficient apology, and so
I dismiss the subject with the wish that it may be
one the happy and honorable lot of not a few among
you to learn in your own experience the truth of this
saying that a Foreign Missionary is a busy man.
A long and kind letter from Dr Alexander
has just reached me, and has brought back freshly
to my mind all things in Princeton. Allow me
through you to thank him most sincerely for that
letter. I am preparing for your cabinet a
small box of curiosities which I shall despatch
(D. V) in the course of the summer, and with which
I shall accompany it a letter to him. Meanwhile
I shall now attempt to give you such a letter
as he says will be the most acceptable to him
namely a letter of facts, not of sentiments.

I begin with myself. My dwelling is among
the Armenians. My study window looks upon
Mount Pagus upon which the ancient city of Smyrna
was built and where still exist the ruins of the
Theatre, & the Stadium, this last the probable
scene of Polycarp's Martyrdom. Just before my
door runs the "Hat Caesarea river" the Meles
diverted from its natural course from the commence-
ment of the city of [illegible] a number of years

people (Armenians) half naked, that [illegible] are standing
this moment up to their ~~[illegible]~~ knees washing ~~[illegible]~~
calicoes which are printed at a large establishment
in this neighborhood. This is their mode of getting daily
bread and the sound of their work reaches us at every hour
day night with hardly any interval. Their mode of
operation is a fair specimen of the state of the arts
in this barbarized country. The very simplest method,
the most widely natural method is the one they adopt
— that is they get right into the water be it cold water or
hot, and beat the cloth with all their force against
certain large rough stones placed there for this purpose!
You will say the glory of the Meles Homer's river
has surely departed. And so it has! And so has ~~[illegible]~~
that of every thing on which has fallen the barbarian
hand of the Turk. This once beautiful & flourishing
country is now a desolation because a grasping &
monopolizing government will enrich itself at the
expense of its subjects, apparently not knowing that
this must prove its own suicide. All through the
interior one meets with wide, beautiful, rich
treeless fields, and no man to cultivate them. The
population of England or America would make
this country in all physical respects a paradise.
But they ~~[illegible]~~ would be obliged to begin by
overthrowing the government, for under its withering
influence the population of Asia Minor seems
to be fading away. The commerce of Smyrna is
declining & has declined for many years. There
is no money in the hands of the poor people of the
interior to buy the coffee & the cloths which English
& American Merchants formerly sold them. Not
even rum will sell here now, which is indeed
some comfort.

You may set it down as the truth, that

~~of Turkey~~ "the reformed, & the rapidly improving Government of Sultan Mahmoud" is ~~not~~ unworthy of the loud praises bestowed on it by certain writers of England. I cannot conceive that this Emperor is not the great man many suppose. I have heard whispers of some powerful influences behind the scenes. He does not receive universal credit here for the authorship of the striking, bold, & decisive measures which have occurred at times ~~during~~ during his reign. And no one doubts I believe that he is at this present time a slave to one of the most degrading passions - namely the love of liquor

But let me return to myself again. I am living among those whom the Turks consider their quiet subjects. No force of oppression rouses into rebellion the orderly sedate thoughtful prudent Armenian. Indeed what good would rebellion do them? The Greeks had a country to contend for & numbers to contend with. But the Armenians are exiles and wanderers from ~~their~~ the ~~and~~ trodden down inheritance of their fathers. Their Genius is commercial and I will add literary. They are generous in their support of their church, their poor, they ~~their~~ the education of their sons, and the cultivation of their ancient language. When I established a ~~free~~ school among them some time ago, they soon resolved, not to be dependent on a stranger for the education of their daughters and for this paid me for my benches and other apparatus and took the school into their own hands. The rich Armenian patron of the High school at Kaas Keoy (which you have no doubt read in the Missionary Herald, pays not less than $3000 yearly out of his own pocket for its support. Nor is this a solitary instance of such generosity among their Merchant Princes. It may rather be considered as a circumstance truly characteristic of them.

The Armenians

are a people of taste for beauty. They love fine hous
with large open courts & ~~fou~~ gardens with fountains
and jets d'eau. They love beautifully printed
books with fine copper-plate engravings and
rich binding. They have no love for the dance.
They rarely if ever intemperate. They are never
known to keep dram-shops, nor did I ever see
one enter such a place. They are quite disposed
to converse on the subject of religion. This winter we
have spent many evenings in their society either at
my house or at ~~their~~ their houses, and in almost
all cases the subject of religion might have been
made the sole topic of conversation. With them
this subject is not as with us a delicate or a forbid-
den subject. In any society of Armenians however
large or respectable religion may be introduced
and they will enter ~~in~~ into any part of it whatever
~~with the introducer~~ and be animated in their enquir-
ies and remarks for hours together. It depends
then entirely on the judgment, the wisdom & the
piety and zeal of the Missionary what use he
makes of these advantages. Would that I had
more of such of these qualities, and that ~~the~~ it
might seem good in the Eyes of the Master to
make use of me as an instrument of good to these
interesting people. You will infer from
what I have said that we regard such visits to the
people as among the best modes of doing them
good. We ~~shall~~ ~~are~~ ~~constantly~~ hope to increase our
personal influence among them while multiplying
the number of our acquaintances. And we ~~shall~~
expect to improve thus in the knowledge of their
language & of their character, while at the same
time we have the most favorable opportunity to preach
the Gospel privately as ~~we~~ the Saviour & his

Apostles for the most part did.

We have had more intercourse this winter than ever before with the Armenians. I owe my introduction to the most of them to a very wonderful machine in my possession, the fame of which has been spread abroad throughout their whole community. This is neither more nor less than Electrical Machine. On several occasions I found a room full of Armenians to hear me explain this (to them) unheard of mystery. It has given them the impression that I am a profound Philosopher, and I believe also has taught them that all the knowledge in the world is not contained in the books of their church or the under the skullcaps of their priests

I commenced with the past winter an Exhortatory exercise once a week in Armenian. But my hearers have been very few. For a time the three Armenians in our printing Office attended together with my two Armenian translators and an Armenian boy in my family. But after a while the three former became dissatisfied with their wages, and left the Office, so that I lost them from my meeting. The other three attend regularly. I have not thought fit to invite in any other persons thinking it advisable to become myself first accustomed in some good degree to the Exercise of public speaking in Armenian. My hope is that the little meeting will grow up by the blessing of God to a regular public preaching of the gospel.

My chief occupation for the present & probably for the long future is the making of books. Our "Child's Entertainer" is just through the press, a

book of about three hundred pages. It is composed entirely of religious peices of various kinds suitable for children, (but not unworthy of the perusal of their parents) together with a few peices of natural history after the manner of Carpenter's work republished in America by Gorham D. Abbot. These peices of Natural History are illustrated by cuts. A copy of this little book and of all other publications I shall send in the box above mentioned.

We have now in preps the confessions of a converted German Jew, in a letter to his Brethren - a little work containing a most admirable exhibition of the doctrines of regeneration, atonement &c &c It is addressed to the Jews, as the Armenians seem to have a great deal for their conversion it will no doubt be read by them with eagerness, and perhaps with more profit than if addressed to themselves directly.

It is a little remarkable that this book contains a paragraph or two not very favorable to the Roman Catholic religion and yet it was translated by a Catholic Armenian of Constple from the French & presented freely to our Brethren there.

We finished with 1837 the printing of an edition (a pocket edition) of the Ancient Armenian New Testament to which I appended a few notes shewing the true Greek reading in important cases of difference. That version is very ancient and truly admirable; but in some cases a single particle wrongly inserted or a word mistranslated obscures the whole of a most interesting passage. In such cases I humbly conceive that my notes will render an important service to the interests of scriptural truth.

The B & F. B. Society have long had in use a translation of this version into the Modern lan-

guage, but it was recalled by an Armenian who had spent many years in Paris and had probably lost his familiarity with the modern tongue. Be that as it may the version is not acceptable to the Armenians. I therefore undertook to last summer at the suggestion of Br. Dwight to revise and improve it by the aid of three good Armenian scholars, of whom two are constantly in my employment. This work is now finished by them and I am giving it a final examination. It has also been accepted by the B. & F. B. Society and we expect immediately on the arrival of some new types from London to put it to the press.

A little volume of pious thoughts taken from Payson Letters is almost ready for publication

We have just begun to print the lives of the Patriarchs and Prophets which will form a volume of 300 pages. This work consists of Gallaudet's three volumes of conversations between Mary & her Mother (published by the A. S. School Union) altered to suit my purpose I have added to them also a small number of pieces to make the whole a complete series of old Testament Biography.

I have it in mind to revise carefully the Mother at Home leaving out every purely American illustration and then to give it to my Translators. Barnes notes on the Gospels also I wish one day to have translated, leaving out of course whatever is an old school man may not approve.

The Meeting of Missionaries held in this city last October appointed to each of its members some subjects or subjects for Essays to be written & translated for the prep. This is a most important measure. A variety of interesting subjects can thus be brought before this community in the most form

best calculated to do them good. I mean to say that books written in America or in England are commonly not suited in illustration, in arrangement, in plan, in the machinery in the whole getting up for the perusal of people in Asia. Anna Ross and Little Henry & his Bearer are not comprehensible to the American or Greek mind. We must have books written on the spot: above all we must have native writers reared up to make books for their countrymen. And those books which we ourselves make now and have translated, though they will no doubt do much good by God's blessing yet we must still be regarded as only temporary utility to give place when the performances of the native "dispensation" shall present themselves. One of the subjects assigned to me was "The Education of Females", upon which I am now writing. The other was "The Bible" considered in reference to the necessity for its distribution to all the community. This latter subject however I have relinquished the idea of writing upon, inasmuch as I have been providentially required to undertake the preparation of a series of letters on the Evidences of Christianity.

An Armenian friend of ours now a wealthy Merchant was formerly a deacon in the Armenian church. Disgusted with the necessary performance of superstitious rites in the use of which he did not believe, he left the Church & became a Tradesman. After some years he heard of "Volney's Ruins of Empires" as being the work of a profound Philosopher, and he caused it to be translated for him. Of course it was impossible for him to have it printed, but he has in his possession the MSS and alas! has in his head & heart but too much of its deadly contents. He is

however a candied man, and I believe a real inquirer
after the truth. He also has some serious sense of feeling
Altogether he is the most interesting Armenian I
have met in Smyrna. At his earnest request for
some reply to the Unbeliever, inasmuch as I have not
accepted the work of Mr Roberts I have under-
taken myself to write a short series of letters on
the Evidences. These I shall probably alter and
make use of for the press after I shall have obser-
ved their effect on the mind of my friend.

My first letter is long, but necessarily so, as
I undertake in it to prove the real existence of Christ
& this If I have succeeded in this, Mr. Volney's "fasci-
nation is soon absorbed" as a Brother in the
your Seminary once blunderingly said. This letter is both
written translated and in the course of two or
copied and sent to the person for whom designed.
The second letter on the resurrection of '41 & the
third on his claims as a divine Teacher I shall
postpone for a while in order to see the effect of the
first.

There can be no doubt that works on the Eviden-
ces of Christianity are important to be prepared
for these Churches. The next step, to many of
their members undoubtedly is infidelity and
there is no book in the Armenian language I know of
in the Greek designed to combat Infidel-
ity. The books we produce on such
subjects would, undoubtedly will not be
intrinsically so valuable as many which already
Exist in our language, but as remarked above
they will be in some measure Creative in their
Nation & therefore acceptable.

we have petitioned the Board for the ne-
cessary funds in order to commence a Monthly Maga-
zine in Armenian similar to the one now published
by us in Greek. We trust they will grant our request
as soon as Providence again fills up their treasury. In
no other way could an equal amount of reading mat-
ter take so acceptable a form to our Greek readers
as is assumed by the articles in the Greek periodicals.
And the same would be true of the Armenians.

We have no schools. But Mrs. Hodgen teaches
two young women every day to read. One is a Greek
the other a Jewess who speaks six or seven languages
admirably (among them the Armenian) but can not
read a word in either. We hope the praiseworthy
conduct of these two girls will awaken the
interest of some of the Armenian women around
us.

Female education is at a low ebb among
the Armenians. As soon a little girl becomes twelve
years old, her parents think it immodest to send
her to school, and so she remains at home in igno-
rance. I know no Armenian woman who can
read well & only two or three who can spell a
little. The girls who attend the school
before mentioned learn to read well. But alas!
by the influence of the Bishop, our little spelling book
in the Modern tongue has lately been ejected
from the use of the pupils in this same school.
This was pure hatred of us for the book had
in it not one sentiment or word in opposition
to any of their ideas. It was the only book in the
use at the school which they could understand, and so now
they only learn to read like parrots in the Ar-
cient language, which is just as if all the

little girls in America should be compelled to read nothing but Latin.

I have begun this long letter dear Brethren with myself and have kept on about myself to the end. But I have done so purposely as I well remember how much more pleasure I took when at Princeton in hearing particulars ~~of~~ than in listening to generals from foreign Brethren.

Dear Brethren there is a wide field for you in this part of the world. Natchez & Vicksburg and Jackson & many other large cities in the interior of this Mississippi stretch forth their hands to you. Will no one come & occupy these posts? I long to hear that there is a deeper interest than ever felt at Princeton upon the subject of foreign missions.

But much as I wish to see the number of Missionaries increased, I would urge no man into the work. Let those who come be fully persuaded in their own minds & let them be resolved to spend their whole lives & strength in the service. I feel that I am in no respect worthy to be here; but I feel too that the standard of Missionary qualifications ought to be raised & kept very high. Let no lazy man become a Missionary — ~~no man who is not devoted to missionary piety~~ — no man who undervalues human learning or thinks as some Brethren did when I was at Princeton, that a Library is of no use to a Foreign Missionary because "the moths & worms in hot countries soon eat up books;" — let no man of an irresolute, or melancholy turn of mind; no man of a jealous irritable spirit — no man with a fiery poisonous tongue — let no man come of an effeminate, unsteady character — no man of a broken-down constitution, and finally no man without ardent living active piety.

In a word we want a good number of

best sort of men best in your Seminary — of the best for
qualifications & of the best for service. Let the feeble
folk not be ungenerously thrust out into the wilderness.
Keep such at home and let us have those who are
strong for labour & resolute for battle. ~~come~~. We
want your men of nerve and of spirit & of courage
& of scholarship & above all of prayer & faith & love
& humility. And we want a good many of them.

I am a quick one of the greatest evils of this

Dear Bro Green, Could the Rev. Dr. Duffield be induced to
this communication in the Princeton Review
or Presbyterian Quarterly

Rev. Dr. Duffield
Pittsburgh

To the Society of Inquiry on &c &c.
Theological Seminary
Princeton
New Jersey.
U. S. America.

NEW-YORK
SHIPS
JUN
28

press pecuniary embarrassment of Missionary so-
cieties will be the discouragement of the young
men who may have had aspirations after the high
calling of a Foreign Missionary. Brethren be not
discouraged. These times will pass away.

With affectionate regards to the beloved
Professors their families & Christian salutations
to all the Brethren of the Seminary

I am truly Yours in the Love of Christ

Fr. Mc Gill to Rodgers.
Smyrna
June 1838
answered
Sept 6th 1838